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NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

BACTERIA IN THE EYE OF THE NEW-BORN.—Dr. McKee says, in the *Montreal Medical Journal*, Rosenhauch, after examining the conjunctival sacs of two hundred new-born babies, came to the following conclusions: The conjunctival cul-de-sac is absolutely clear immediately after birth. The first micro-organisms appear twenty-four hours after birth. After twenty-four hours the bacterial flora is constant. It is not to be differentiated from the adult. The *Staphylococcus non pyogenes, non liquefaciens*, and the *Bacillus xerosis* are constant inhabitants. Other micro-organisms are only sporadic. Pathological micro-organisms are seldom found, and then only a few. Twenty-four hours after birth the conjunctival sac was never free from micro-organisms. Gonorrhoeal infection is hardly possible during birth, but usually occurs during the first couple of days of life.

THE TRAINED NURSE.—The *New York Medical Journal* says, in the April *Red Book* Dr. Regan plays a conspicuous part in "The Jewel Consistency," by Elliott Flower, who gives us this bit of philosophy: Revolt against a good trained nurse is quite impossible. You may defy a doctor, you may tell a male attendant to go to the devil, but the trained nurse, with gentle firmness, rules you absolutely.

LIME WATER IN THE TREATMENT OF WARTS.—Dr. Kennard, in the *British Medical Journal*, reports a case of a young woman who had at least 300 warts on the back of each hand and wrist. She was treated for nearly a year by all the conventional methods, including arsenic and cauterization, but without avail. Kennard, as a last resort, fell back upon an old remedy, namely, the administration of half a pint of lime water a day for a week. In the course of four days all the warts disappeared and since then (two months) no fresh outbreak has occurred.

SKIN STERILIZATION BY TINCTURE OF IODINE.—I. S. Stone, writing in the *Southern Medical Journal*, agrees with Grossich and Walther that tincture of iodine is the best skin disinfectant now known. Both these authors had performed experiments which clearly demonstrated that

iodine has the power of penetrating deeply into the layers of skin. The spaces between these layers are occupied by the various forms of bacteria, fat, sweat, etc. The inter- and intra-cellular capillary and lymph spaces all communicate with these layers of epithelium, and it is conclusively shown that iodine penetrates into all of these various clefts and openings of the skin. The alcohol of the tincture dissolves the fat, while iodine has a special penetrative quality of its own and forms a chemical combination with the fatty acids of the skin, which combination is quickly absorbed. The author believes that the soap and water cleansing is wrong in principle, as the intra-cellular spaces are filled with the soap solution, which prevents the action of the alcohol. After the operation is completed a final application is made over the closed wound before applying the sterile dressing.

THE WORK CURE IN TUBERCULOSIS.—The *Medical Record*, quoting from *Le Bulletin Médical*, says F. Dumarest contrasts the rest cure, so frequently used in tuberculosis, with the newer method of treatment used in England, which may be called the work cure. In some English sanatoria a system of graduated labor is made use of, originated by Paterson, which has been quite successful. In applying this system we think less of the physical signs than we do of the general condition of the patient. When a patient shows fever he is put to bed until this has passed away. After this he is given a small amount of labor equivalent to the lifting of a certain amount of weight. As he is able to do this it is gradually increased. The work is, as far as possible, performed in the open air, being for the men gardening, carpentering, painting, wood-cutting, etc. All these trades are carried on so as to be of value in the maintenance of the sanatorium. The women cultivate garden vegetables for the table, and care for poultry. The coming on of slight fever in such persons is considered a favorable sign rather than otherwise, and as indicating the formation of a power of resistance to the disease. It is a reaction such as occurs when tuberculin is injected. Under this system 80 per cent. of the patients are cured. Work is considered a part of the cure, and those who are not willing to perform it are not admitted to the sanatorium.

SORE NIPPLES.—The *Southern Clinic* says, among the numerous remedies recommended for sore nipples the compound tincture of benzoin is probably one of the best, as a local application.

ELECTRIC ANÆSTHESIA.—Dr. Louise G. Robbinovitch of New York, editor of the *Journal of Mental Pathology*, and a skilful operator in the

electrical methods of the resuscitation of the lower animals, gave a demonstration before a large assemblage of physicians and surgeons in Hartford, Conn., of the possibilities of electrical anæsthesia. A young Austrian was obliged to submit to the amputation of four toes in consequence of gangrene having supervened after frost bite. The electricity was applied and the operation performed by Dr. Marcus M. Johnson. It lasted for forty-five minutes, during which time the patient laughed and talked freely with Dr. Robbinovitch and the surgeons, being unconscious of any unpleasant sensation even when the bone was separated with bone forceps. Two hours afterwards the patient was sitting up in bed in a cheerful frame of mind. This is the first time in the annals of surgery, says the article in the *Medical Record*, that electricity has been used for anæsthetic purposes on man and the demonstrator was a woman.

CURRENT LITERATURE OF INTEREST TO NURSES

Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, April, "The Present Attitude of the Tuberculosis Nurse towards her Work," Ellen N. LaMotte. *American Journal of Surgery*, April, "Iodine Disinfection of the Field of Operation," Editorial. *New York Medical Journal*, April 9, "Ophthalmic Nursing," Matthias Lanckton Foster, M.D.; April 23, "Dreams and Their Relation to the Neuroses," A. A. Brill, M.D. *Medical Record*, April 23, "Antityphoid Vaccination," Editorial; "Electric Anæsthesia," Marcus M. Johnson, M.D.; April 9, "Measles and Mice," Editorial; April 16, "Fatal Factors in Pneumonia," G. Wesley, M.D. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, April 16, "A Preliminary Report of the Pediatric Department of an Outdoor Maternity Clinic," Herman Schwartz, M.D., assisted by Adelaide Bowland, R.N.; April 30, "The Sanitary Side of the Garbage Question," Editorial; May 7, "A New Suture, the Double Figure-of-Eight," Edward H. Richardson, M.D.; "Pernicious Vomiting of Pregnancy," Adam H. Wright, M.D.; "Some Modern Ideas of Cancer," J. W. Vaughan, M.D. *Yale Medical Journal*, April, "The Problem of Finding Employment for Tuberculosis Individuals," M. Grace Markham. *The British Journal of Nursing*, April 30, "Defective Nipples," H. B. Billups, M.D. *The Illinois Quarterly*, "Mental Hygiene," Henry B. Favill, M.D. *The Canadian Nurse*, April, "Typhoid Fever—Responsibility of the Nurse Regarding its Prevention," Annie E. Hutchinson. *The Survey*, April 30, "Ten-Hour Law for Women Upheld," Graham Taylor; "For Association of Children's Clinics."